

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 47, 56, 59, 64, 65, 69, 70, and 78 have been amended. Claims 1-46, 48-55, 57-58, and 60-63 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 47, 56, 59, and 64-85 are currently under examination in the present application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that the present amendments and arguments place this application in condition for immediate allowance.

As an initial matter, in the Office Action of July 2, 2008, the Examiner objected to claim 49 as failing to terminate with a period. This objection has now become moot by virtue of the present amendments which cancels claim 49. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner then rejected claims 47-64 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as lacking enablement. In particular, the Examiner asserted that while the specification of the present application was enabling for a method of creating a carbon-nitrogen bond by reacting hydrazones with substituted benzenes, the specification did not reasonably provide enablement for a method of creating a carbon-heteroatom bond by reacting a universe of leaving group-bearing unsaturated compounds with the universe of nucleophilic compounds. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, and request that it be withdrawn.

By virtue of the present amendments, claim 47 has now been amended to recite a method of creating a carbon-heteroatom bond where the leaving group-bearing unsaturated compound is an aromatic compound that is represented by formula (IIc) and

the nucleophilic compound is a hydrazone. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 14 of the present application. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47, as amended, provides enablement for a method of creating a carbon-heteroatom bond and, accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request that it be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner then made various rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. These rejections have been rendered moot by virtue of the present amendments and, accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, and request that they be withdrawn.

First, with regard to the various rejections of claims 48-55, 57-58, and 63, these rejections have now become moot by virtue of the present amendments which cancel these claims and, accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections of claims 47, 65, and 69, the Examiner has asserted that certain terminology appearing within these claims renders the claims indefinite. These rejections have also now become moot by virtue of the present amendments which remove the objectionable terminology from the claims. Specifically, the term "associated" has been removed from claim 47; the phrase "such as" has been removed from claim 65; and, the phrase "preferably equal to 4" has been removed from claim 69. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 47, 65, and 69, as amended are not indefinite and, accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

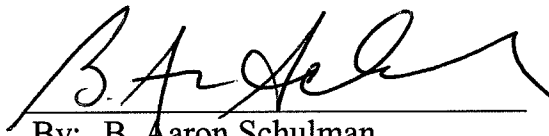
Further, with regard to the rejections of claims 56, 69, and 70, the Examiner has asserted that these claims are indefinite because there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “formula (Ia)” in claim 56 and the limitation “formula (IIIa)” in claim 69. These rejections have also been rendered moot by virtue of the present amendments. In particular, with regard to claim 56, the limitation “formula (Ia)” has been removed by the present amendments and the claim has been amended to indicate that R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} may each independently be a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 9 of the specification of the present application. Further, with regard to claims 69 and 70, these claims have been amended to indicate that “formula (IIIa)” is the same formula as appears in claim 68, and thus sufficient antecedent basis is present for both claims 69 and 70.

Finally, with regard to the rejection of claims 56 and 59, the Examiner has asserted that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “nucleophilic substrate.” This rejection has been rendered moot by virtue of the present amendments as well. Specifically, the phrase “nucleophilic substrate” has been deleted and claims 56 and 59 have been amended to recite the phrase “nucleophilic compound” to remove any possible ambiguity and to more closely reflect the terminology used in independent claim 47, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections, insofar as applied to the claims as amended, should be withdrawn as well.

In light of the amendments and arguments provided herewith, Applicants submit that the present application overcomes all prior rejections and objections, and has been placed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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